

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An article having high water retention capacity and at least one surface, characterized as hydrophilic, which surface consists of fumed hydrophilic silica particles with an average particle size of from 1 nm to 20 μ m anchored in the surface or secured in a carrier layer forming the hydrophilic surface where the hydrophilic surface promotes water absorption.
- 2-3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously presented) The article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier layer comprises fixative particles or an adhesive or lacquer system.
5. (Previously presented) The article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the embedded fumed hydrophilic silica particles results from a solvation or swelling process.
6. (Withdrawn) A process for producing surfaces with hydrophilic properties, which comprises applying particles which have hydrophilic properties to a surface and securing them there.
7. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the hydrophilic particles are applied by applying a suspension which comprises hydrophilic particles in a solvent, and then are secured by removing the solvent.
8. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the suspension is applied to at least one surface of an article by dipping the O.Z. 5993 article into the suspension.
9. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the suspension is applied to at least one surface of an article by spraying the suspension onto the article.
10. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the suspension comprises a polymer dissolved in the solvent.

11. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the surface of the article is not solvated by the solvent, and after removal of the solvent the particles adhere, as a coating, to the surface of the article.

12. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the solvent used comprises at least one suitable compound from the group consisting of alcohols, glycols, ethers, glycol ethers, ketones, amides, nitro compounds, halogenated hydrocarbons, and mixtures of these, which does not solvate the surface of the article to be coated.

13. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the surface of the article is swelled or solvated by the solvent, and after removal of the solvent the particles have been anchored in the surface of the article.

14. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the surface which is solvated by a solvent comprises polymers based on polycarbonates, on poly(meth)acrylates, on polyamides, on PVC, on polyethylenes, on polypropylenes, on aliphatic linear or branched polyalkenes, on cyclic polyalkenes, on polystyrenes, on polyesters, on polyether sulfones, on polyacrylonitrile, or on polyalkylene terephthalates, or else comprises mixtures or copolymers of these.

15. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the solvent used comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of alcohols, glycols, ethers, glycol ethers, ketones, amides, nitro compounds, halogenated hydrocarbons and mixtures of these which is a suitable solvent for the appropriate surface.

16. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the solvent used comprises at least one compound which is a suitable solvent for the appropriate surface selected from methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol, octanol, cyclohexanol, phenol, kresol, ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, dioxane, dioxolane, tetrahydrofuran, monoethylene glycol ether, diethylene glycol ether, triethylene glycol ether, polyethylene glycol ether, acetone, butanone, cyclohexanone, dimethylformamide, pyridine, N-methylpyrrolidone, N-methylcaprolactone, acetonitrile, dimethyl sulfoxide, sulfolane, nitrobenzene, dichloromethane, chloroform, tetrachloromethane, trichloroethene, tetrachloroethene, 1,2-dichloroethane, and chlorophenol, and mixtures of these.

17. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein prior to application to the surface, the temperature of the solvent which comprises the hydrophilic particles is from -30 to 150°C , preferably from 25 to 100°C .

18. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 6, which comprises the steps of

- a) applying a curable substance as carrier to a surface,
- b) applying hydrophilic particles to the carrier, and
- c) securing the particles by curing the carrier.

19. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 18, wherein the carrier is cured by thermal energy and/or by the energy present in the light.

20. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 18, O.Z. 5993 wherein the curable carrier used comprises a lacquer which comprises at least a mixture made from mono- and/or polyunsaturated acrylates and/or methacrylates and/or polyurethanes, or comprises a hot-melt adhesive which comprises at least one compound selected from ethylene-ethyl acrylate copolymers, ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymers, polyamides, polyether sulfones, polyisobutenes, and polyvinyl butyrals.

21. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 18, wherein the carrier comprises hydrophilic particles.

22. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the hydrophilic particles used comprise those whose particle sizes is from 1 nm to $20\text{ }\mu\text{m}$, preferably from 5 nm to $5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$.

23. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the hydrophilic particles used comprise hydrophilic silicas.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) A cleaning textile suitable as a cleaning aid which has high water retention capacity and, on at least one surface, a surface which consists of fumed hydrophilic silica particles with an average particle size of from 1 nm to $20\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ anchored in the surface or

secured in a carrier layer forming a hydrophilic surface which promotes water absorption.

26. (Currently amended) A fiber which has high water retention capacity and, on at least one surface, a surface which consists of fumed hydrophilic silica particles with an average particle size of from 1 nm to 20 μm anchored in the surface or secured in a carrier layer forming a hydrophilic surface which promotes water absorption.

27. (Previously Presented) A textile which comprise fibers as claimed in claim 26.

28. (Previously presented) The article of claim 1, wherein the fumed hydrophilic silica particles have a Brunauer, Emmett, Teller (BET) surface area of from 50 to 600 m^2/g .

29. (Currently amended) An article having high water retention capacity and at least one surface, characterized as hydrophilic, comprising 10 to 100% fumed hydrophilic silica particles having an average particle size of from 1 nm to 20 μm , wherein the particles are secured to the surface by a carrier layer or by being anchored in the surface which promotes water absorption.

30. (Previously presented) The article of claim 29, wherein the surface is composed of 50 to 95% fumed hydrophilic silica particles.

31. (Previously presented) The article of claim 30, wherein the surface is composed of 75 to 85% fumed hydrophilic silica particles.

32. (Previously presented) The article of claim 4, wherein the carrier layer comprises melted or partially melted fixative particles.

33. (Previously presented) The article of claim 29, wherein the carrier layer comprises an adhesive or lacquer system or polymeric fixative particles, which melt forming the carrier layer.

34. (Previously presented) The article of claim 1, wherein the carrier layer comprises a curable substance.